

Congressmember Karen Bass (CA-37)

December 10, 2017

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE



Political Context in Congress in 2017

House of Representatives:

- *194 Democrats*
- *240 Republicans*
- *1 Vacancy*

Senate

- *52 Republicans*
- *48 Democrats*



Paul Ryan
(R-WI)
*re-elected
as Speaker*

Committees

Committee on Foreign Affairs

- *Highest Ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on **Africa***

Committee on Judiciary

- *Subcommittee on **Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet***
- *Subcommittee on **Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations***



WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED



Executive Oversight

House Resolution 523 – Calls to Prevent Trump from Pardoning Himself or His Family – Introduced to the House

RESOLUTION

Expressing disapproval of any act of the President to grant to himself or any member of his family, including those related solely by marriage, a reprieve or pardon for an offense against the United States.

Joined Nearly 200 Lawmakers in an Emoluments Lawsuit Against President Trump

“It’s our job in Congress to hold the President accountable, not to ourselves or our party, but to the American people and the Constitution.”

- Rep. Karen Bass, June 2017

Executive Oversight

Delivered 130-Page Policy Document to Trump with the Executive Committee of the Congressional Black Caucus

*He asked us what our community has to lose.
We answered: **A lot***

- *Budget*
- *Voting Rights*
- *Criminal Justice Reform*
- *FBI Profiling*
- *Education*
- *Health Care*
- *Environmental Justice*



**WE HAVE A LOT TO
LOSE**

SOLUTIONS TO ADVANCE BLACK
FAMILIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Executive Oversight

Led 80 House Democrats on Letter Opposing Trump Administration Plan to Use Foster Care as Immigration Deterrent

“Yes I’m considering (that), in order to deter more movement along this terribly dangerous network. I am considering exactly that. ... It’s more important to me, Wolf, to try to keep people off of this awful network”

- Then DHS Sec. John Kelly, March 2017

*Our **child welfare system** should never be used as a **deterrent or a punishment** for anyone, whether they are Americans or not. To consider using the threat of detaining a child as a deterrent to parents outside of our borders is not only irresponsible and inadequate, but immoral and inhumane.*

Executive Oversight



The First Bill To Be Cosponsored in the 115th Congress – The "Protecting Our Democracy" Act

- *Would establish the National Commission on Foreign Interference in the 2016 Election.*

Joined House Members Demanding Better Response in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Affected Caribbean Islands

- *Secured over \$50 billion in total hurricane relief.*

Criminal Justice Legislation

The MERCY Act to Ban Juvenile Solitary Confinement – Introduced to the House

- *Would **prohibit the solitary confinement of juveniles** who are tried in the federal system and held in pretrial facilities or juvenile detention facilities.*

“It is time we start addressing the underlying issues of trauma and abuse, as well as the emotionally damaging triggers of adolescent behaviors in a humane and medically informed way. The bottom line here is that... confinement for youth in America must stop.”

- Rep. Karen Bass, June 2017

Black Identity Extremism

November – Questioned AG Sessions on FBI “Black Identity Extremism” Report



Last Thursday - Questioned FBI Director Wray on FBI “Black Identity Extremism” Report

Healthcare Legislation

Legislation Package to Address Physician Assistant Educational Needs

– Introduced in House

Three bills that would:

- *Expand scholarships for PA students*
- *Increase the loan limit (unsubsidized) for PA students*
- *Incentivize payments to all PAs with 30% Medicaid patients*

Resolution Commemorating National Physician Assistant Week - Introduced in House

- *Continues our work to honor the often-forgotten contributions of PAs throughout the U.S.*



Immigration Legislation

Cosponsored the DREAM Act, signed a petition to bring the DREAM Act to the House Floor for an immediate vote.

“Especially in LA, DREAMers are students, teachers, coaches, mentors, entrepreneurs and community leaders from every continent. They’re from Asia, Africa, and Latin America... We will make this right.”

- Rep. Karen Bass, Sept. 2017



The American Promise Act – Introduced in House with Rep. Velázquez PR

- *Would **protect from deportation** individuals who currently receive **Temporary Protected Status**.*

Five-Bill Package on Child Welfare

- *Expands the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, which provides **assistance to youth who have aged out of foster care.***
- ***Removes barriers in foster care licensing,** particularly related to housing standards, to make it easier for relatives to become foster parents.*
- ***Decreases costs** associated with child welfare case management and **decreases delays** in foster care placement.*
- ***Assists children** who are in or at risk of being placed in the system because of their **parents' substance abuse.***
- ***Enables families to remain intact** while parents participate in family-based residential substance abuse treatment programs.*

Child Welfare Legislation

Co-lead Bipartisan Effort on Passage of Modern Sex Trafficking Legislation – **PASSED in the House**

- *Reauthorizes **\$130 million** to ensure an integrated, whole-of-government response to fight human trafficking for the next four years.*
- *Also includes important **improvements to current law** to help further address and prevent human trafficking.*

The Foster Youth Mentoring Act – Introduced in the House

- *Seeks to address the need for greater support of mentoring programs that serve youth in foster care by **providing foster youth with the social capital, resources, and support** they need to develop positive relationships and connections.*

Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth

173 Members of Congress!

*Two **listening tours** to Mississippi and Michigan to meet with youth and providers.*



*Four **Caucus dinners** including a collaboration with the Bipartisan Heroin Task Force on the effects of the opioid epidemic on the child welfare system.*

Other Legislative Highlights

Bipartisan Resolution Condemning Libya Slave Trade

– Introduced in the House

The AGOA and MCA Modernization Act to Strengthen U.S.-Africa Trade

– Introduced in the House

Joined over 100 Members Urging Appointment of Special Envoy to Monitor Anti-Semitism

Bill Designating the Marvin Gaye Post Office in South LA – Introduced in the House



Subcommittee on Africa



20 Hearings on
U.S. – Africa
relations &
policy

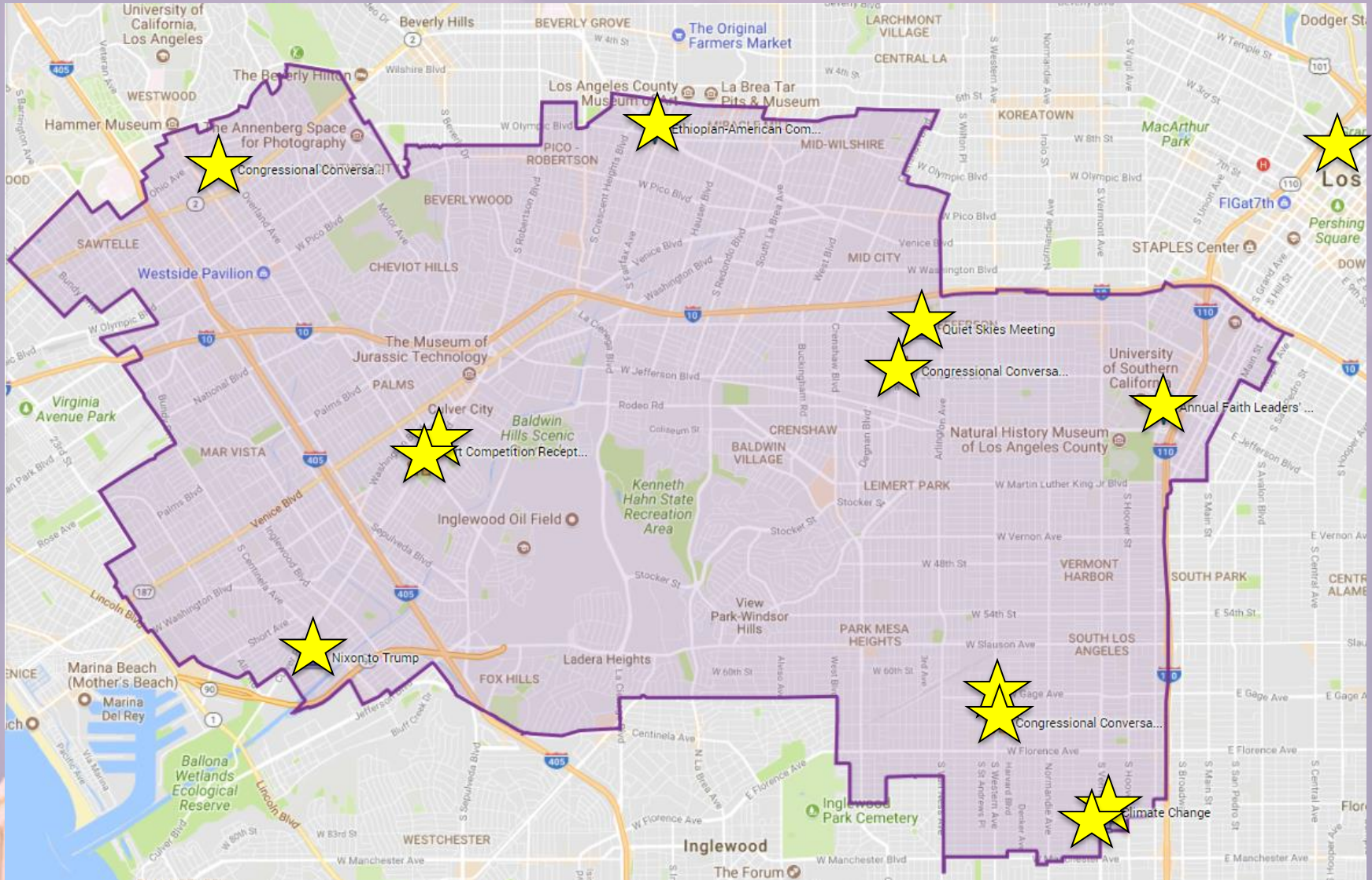
4 Africa Policy Forums:

- Contracting
- Famine (2)
- The Sahel



\$990 million
secured to
combat
famine.

13 Events in the 37th in 2017



Town Halls

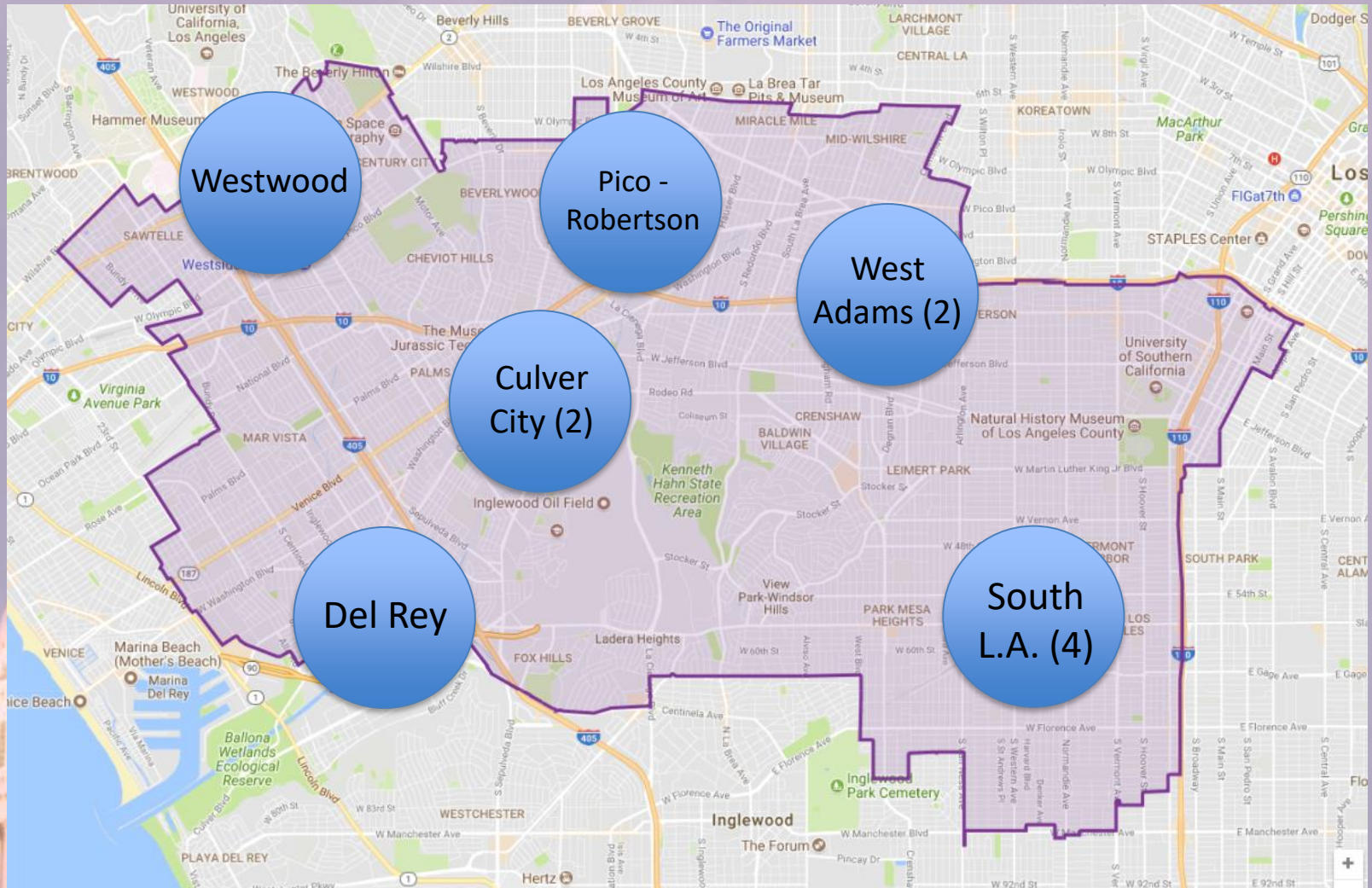
1,557 Total Attendees!

- Climate Change in the New Administration: *Why South LA Should Care*
- Immigration State of Emergency
- From Nixon to Trump: *Perspectives on Presidential Accountability with John Dean and Malcolm Nance*
- A Meeting On Quiet Skies



Small Community Meetings

1,657 Total Attendees!



Results from 2017 Community Meetings

- Convened Postal Inspectors and the Post Office Manager at a Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting
- Cosponsored multiple bills to **prevent and address presidential abuses**
- Connected constituents with resources to take action on climate change.
- Shared real-life stories of constituents who would be harmed by repeal of the ACA on the House floor.
- Provided housing resources at a “Housing First” Resource Fair in South Los Angeles.
- Help immigrants find resources to keep families together.
- Formed a Quiet Skies Constituent Task Force, and Elected Officials Quiet Skies Working Group.

2017 District Office Program Highlights

Congressional Art Competition

- **Recognized 170** student artists from **17 schools**.
- Celebrated CA37's **first foster youth winner**, and supported her trip to DC for the opening reception.

CBC Foundation Spouses Education Scholarship

- Awarded **four scholarships** to high school seniors, undergraduate and grad students.

Military Officer Academy Scholarship Nominations

- **Nominated nine constituents** for academy scholarships.

Congressional App Challenge

- Made the **competition available** to high schools for 2nd time.

Letters and Certificates of Recognition

- Provided **402 requesters with 1,619 certificates or letters** honoring significant events and accomplishments.

3 Telephone Town Halls

94,583 #s dialed!

After Trump's Joint Address to Congress

- *Discussed the implications of his speech and possible impacts on LA.*

After the House Vote on the American Health Care Act

- *Discussed how the House bill would affect constituents.*
- *Featured expert analysis by Louise McCarthy of the Community Clinic Association of LA County.*

After the Senate Vote on the American Health Care Act

- *Provided an insider update on efforts being taken to repeal the Affordable Care Act.*

Casework

My office offers assistance in dealing with federal agencies.

Top casework issues of 2017:

1. US Citizenship & Immigration Services
2. US Postal Service
3. Department of Veterans Affairs
4. Social Security Administration

For help with a federal agency, see a staff member today, or call (323) 965-1422.

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at bass.house.gov/signup



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Questions?

